

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /104 W

-----047827 160602Z /15

O R 160356Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4887

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CU, RQ, UN

SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): PUERTO RICO

REF: A) USUN 2598; B) STATE 190667; C) STATE 193709

1. SUMMARY: C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO HAD UNEVENTFUL
START PM AUGUST 15. C-24 VICE CHAIRMAN VRAALSEN BELIEVES
HE HAS MADE PROGRESS IN GETTING CUBAN AGREEMENT
FOR ACCEPTABLE
CONSENSUS STATEMENT TO CONCLUDE HEARINGS.
END SEJMARY.

2. C-24 BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO PM AUGUST 15.
FIVE PETITIONERS HEARD. CUBANS PUT A QUESTION TO ONE
OF THEM. SESSION UNEVENTFUL OVERALL. TWENTY-ONE PETITIONERS
UNDERSTOOD TO REMAIN TO BE HEARD. FROM AMONG C-24 MEMBERS,
CUBANS HAVE INDICATED TO VRAALSEN THAT THEY ARE SEEKING
AN AFRICAN AND AN ASIAN PLUS POSSIBLY THE USSR TO SPEAK.
VRAALSEN, WHO SOUGHT TO DISCOURAGE THEM REGARDING THE USSR,
BELIEVED THAT THE CUBANS HAVE ETHIOPIA AND IRAQ IN MIND AS
SPEAKERS FROM AFRICA AND ASIA. C-24 SCHEDULED TO RESUME
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WORK ON PUERTO RICO AT 10:30 AM AUGUST 16.

3. CUBANS HAVE STRESSED TO VRAALSEN THAT THEY PROVIDED
TEXT FOR DRAFT CONSENSUS RESOLUTION (REFTEL A) ONLY TO
VRAALSEN AND THAT THEY HAVE CONCENTRATED THEIR LOBBYING
EFFORT ON GOLA OF A CONSENSUS CONCLUSION TO HEARINGS.
WITH FOREGOING IN MIND, VRAALSEN HAS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN

MOMENTUM IN NEGOTIATION TO GET CUBAN AGREEMENT TO AN ACCEPTABLE CONSENSUS STATEMENT RATHER THAN A RESOLUTION. ON EVENING AUGUST 15, VRAALSENT GAVE NEW TEXT FOR DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT (REF C) TO CBAN MISOFF SALADO VILLACIN. THIS TEXT RECEIVED PM AUGUST 15 FROM DEPARTMENT WAS MODIFICATION OF THAT IN REF B. TEXT AS FURTHER MODIFIED SLIGHTLY BY VRAALSEN IN CONSULTATION WITH USUN (AND DEPARTMENT) IS IN FINAL PARA BELOW.

4. VRAALSEN, AT 10:00 PM AUGUST 15, REPORTED FAVORABLE REACTION BY SALADO TO NEW TEXT, SALADO WOULD WHOW TEXT TO CUBAN PERMREP ALARCON WHEN LATTER RETURNED TO NEW YORK AT 11:00 PM AUGUST 15. IN COMMENTING ON TEXT, SALADO, AS VARAALSEN HAD ANTICIPATED, REQUESTED DELETION OF WORDS "IF THAT IS THEIR WISH" FRON OPERATIVE PORTION OF DRAFT CONCENSUS STATEMENT. ASIDE FROM THIS, SALADO DID NOT REQUEST CHANGES.

5. ON BASIS CONVERSATION WITH SALADO, VRAALSEN IS HOPEFUL THAT AGREEMENT ON CONSENSUS STATEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON AUGUST 16.

6. VRAALSENT REPORTS SOVIETS AND YUGOSLAVS STRESSING DESIRE TO AVOID VOTING SITUATION ON PUERTO RICO.

7. VRAALSENT WILL CMPHASIZE TO ALARCON THAT C-24 MEMBERS
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ARE ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE WORK ON PUERTO RICO AND THAT EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER OF PETITIONERS MAKING C-24 MEMBERS UNHAPPY. WITH VIEW TO EXPEDITING MATTERS, VRAALSENT WILL INVITE CUGANS TO DESIST FROM QUESTIONING PETITIONTERS.

8. VRAALSENT WILL ASK ALARCON FOR FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT IF DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT ACCEPTED. CUBA WILL NOT RAISE PUERTO RICO FORMALLY DURING FORTHCOMING UNGA.

9. TEXT FOR CONSENSUS STATEMENT AS PROVIDED
CUBANS ON EVENING AUST 15 FOLLOWS:

QTE: AT ITS MEETING, ON AUGUST, 1977, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPROVED THE FOLLOWING DRAFT CONSENSUS PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN: AFTER CONSULTATION AS TO WHAT ACTION THE COMMITTEE SHOULD TAKE REGARDING THE QUESTION UNDER CONSIDERATION; BEARING IN MIND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) AND OTHER RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS; RECALLING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTIONS OF 28 AUGUST 1972 AND 30 AUGUST 1973, AS WELL AS THE CONSENSUS ADOPTED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

AT THE CONCLUSION OF ITS DEBATE ON THE QUESTION IN 1976; NOTING THE DECISIONS ADOPTED ON PUERTO RICO BY THE FIFTH SUMMIT MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS IN COLOMBO IN AUGUST 1976 AS WELL AS BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF SAID NON-ALIGNED NATIONS HELD IN NEW DELHI IN APRIL 1977; TAKING NOTE WITH APPRECIATION OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE RAPPOREUR, DOC. A/AC.109/L.1191 IN COMPLIANCE WITH LAST YEAR'S DECISION; HAVING HEARD THE STATEMENTS OF THE PETITIONERS AND MEMBERS DURING DEBATE; ACKNOWLEDGING THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN ITS LETTER TO THE RAPPOREUR OF MAY 16, 1977 THAT THE POLICY OF ITS GOVERNMENT IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO TO SELF-DETERMINATION; THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE REAFFIRMS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO TO SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE IF THAT IS THEIR WISH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) OF 14 DECEMBER 1960 AND OTHER RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND BY VIRTUE OF THAT RIGHT TO FREELY DETERMINE THEIR POLITICAL STATUS AND FREELY PURSUE THEIR SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING EXPLOITATION OF THEIR ON-SHORE AND OFF-SHORE RESOURCES; AND DECIDES TO KEEP THE QUESTION UNDER REVIEW. UNQTE.
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